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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WOMAN CONVICTED OF PERJURY AND OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE**

Greenbelt - United States Attorney Thomas M. DiBiagio announced that Barbara Hawkins, age 55, of Washington, DC was convicted today by a federal jury in Greenbelt of four felony counts relating to giving false testimony and obstructing justice at two criminal trials involving her son.

Hawkins was convicted of one count of making false declarations under oath to a jury and one count of obstructing justice at the April 2002 firearms trial of her son, Ammad Bashaun Perry, which ended in a mistrial. Hawkins was also convicted of one count of making false declarations under oath to a jury and one count of obstructing justice at Perry's May 2002 retrial, which ended with Perry's conviction for obstruction of justice but acquittal on two firearms charges. This week's trial lasted one-and-a-half days and the jury deliberated for less than two hours before returning its verdicts.

According to the evidence presented to the jury, in March 2001 Hawkins and Perry lived in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Hawkins worked for Verizon at a business unit located in the Calverton/Beltsville area of Prince George's County, Maryland. On Monday, March 13, 2001,

Hawkins did not go to work and visited a doctor, who diagnosed her as suffering from a migraine headache and prescribed rest at home. During the rest of the week of March 13-16, 2001, Hawkins did not go to work at Verizon, as evidenced by Verizon's attendance records.

Early on March 15, 2001, Perry was stopped by Montgomery County police in Rockville, Maryland, for committing traffic violations while driving Hawkins' car, a Hyundai. During a search of the vehicle, police discovered a loaded handgun in the trunk. Based on Perry's prior criminal record, he was charged in federal court as a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

Prior to Perry's trials, Hawkins told a law enforcement officer that she did not know anything about the gun found in her car. When the Perry case came to trial, however, Hawkins twice testified under oath, knowingly and falsely, that on March 14, 2001, she went to work, stopped at a laundromat near the corner of Queens Chapel Road and Hamilton Street in Hyattsville, found a firearm, put it in the trunk of the Hyundai, drove home to Gaithersburg, did not remove it from the trunk, and did not tell Perry about it before he drove off in the Hyundai. At this week's trial, she acknowledged that she did not go to work on March 14, 2001 but claimed that her memory was poor and that she did not knowingly testify falsely. She also continued to maintain that she did go to the laundromat that day.

Hawkins faces a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment on each false declarations count and 10 years imprisonment on each obstruction of justice count and a maximum fine of \$250,000 for each count. U.S. District Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. has scheduled sentencing for January 27, 2004 at 9:30 a.m.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Baltimore Field Division and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Stuart A. Berman and Stephanie A. Gallagher.